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I, JULIE BILLINGSLEY, TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION SUPPORT AND SALES hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional specification in connection with Application No. 2003905583 for a patent by CHRISTOPHER LYNDON HIGGINS as filed on 13 October 2003.



WITNESS my hand this
Twenty-sixth day of October 2004

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. Billingsley".

JULIE BILLINGSLEY
TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION
SUPPORT AND SALES

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Decorative and practical storage device for a hose.

Kownacki in US Patent 5988207 and Macey Smith in US Patent 6467499 teach us the use of a decorative storage devices for a garden hose.

The present invention is directed to an improved device with a retractable hose reel contained inside a decorative item used in the garden. The said decorative item has an upper portion which is separate from but resting upon the lower portion so as to appear as one integral item.

The device may be described as follows:-

A device shaped to form any item appropriate for a garden.

The upper portion of the device may be used to contain or form part of any decorative or useful garden item. For example but not limited to:-

1. to contain soil and plants.
2. to contain a potted plant.
3. to contain or function as a decorative fountain.
4. to contain or function as a base for or form part of statuary or statues.
5. to contain or function a or form part of illumination means.

The preferred , but not limiting, form of the invention is an urn or pot of appropriate diameter and height to contain a retractable hose reel. The upper portion of the preferred form is watertight in the case where it forms part of a fountain or may have strategically placed drain holes to direct drainage water away from the roots of plants in such a way so as not to flow into the lower portion and damage the garden hose and retractable hose reel mechanism.

An example of the invention is shown in fig.1 which shows an urn object consisting of a container upper portion 10 and a container lower portion 60 upon which the upper portion rests.

The container upper portion 10 has a base 15 and sides 20 which are contiguous and form a water tight vessel. The base 15 has a channel 25 around its outer perimeter adjoining the sides 20. The purpose of the channel 25 is so that when the container upper portion is to be used as plant containing means then the said channel provides a means of collecting and directing water which falls upon the base 15 to holes 30 placed strategically at one or more locations in the base of the said channel so that water may drain from the container upper portion without flooding the container lower portion.

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An additional one of the holes 30 may be used to provide access for water from a separate irrigation water supply to provide water for any plants contained in the said container upper portion.

The container lower portion 60 consists sides 65 and a base 70 and, one of said sides has an orifice (not numbered) of appropriate shape and dimension to permit the hose 90 to be withdrawn from the hose reel when required said orifice may be formed as part of a recess in the said side such that any "clip-on" hose fitting is recessed into the said recess thereby tending to hide said hose fitting.

The said container lower portion 60 contains the retractable hose reel 80 and supporting axle 85 and a hose fitting (not shown) also penetrates either a side 65 or base 70 to permit connection of water supply to the hose on the hose reel. Said hose fitting and/or connecting hose may be located within an appropriately formed recess or channel (not shown) in the side 65 base 70 of the said container lower portion 60. Such recess and/or channel will be formed to hide or disguise the water supply entry and in the case of a channel in the base 70 will permit a hose or pipe containing water supply to enter into the container lower portion 60 without the hose or pipe being crushed by the weight of the device.

The said container lower portion contains a space 75 between the lower edge of the hose-reel 80 and the base 70 such space being provided to allow the fitting of a counterweight to steady the device against the force exerted when pulling hose from the reel. Alternatively, in some instances the device may be steadied by fixing the base 70 by some fastening means into the desired position onto the surface upon which it stands.

Persons skilled in the art may create other versions of the invention without departing from the scope of the present invention.


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